



NASA STTR 2004 Phase I Solicitation

T8.01 Aerospace Manufacturing Technology

Lead Center: MSFC

NASA is interested in encouraging innovation in manufacturing through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Continued technological innovation is critical to a strong manufacturing sector in the United States economy. The Federal Government has an important role, in helping to advance innovation, including innovation in manufacturing, through small businesses. The President issued an executive order directing Agencies to the extent permitted by law and in a manner consistent with the mission of the Agency, to give high priority within such programs to manufacturing-related research and development. NASA is interested in innovative manufacturing technologies that enable sustained and affordable human and robotic exploration of the Moon, Mars, and solar system. Specific areas of interest in this solicitation include innovative manufacturing, materials, and processes relevant to propulsion systems and airframe structures for next-generation launch vehicles, crew exploration vehicles, lunar orbiters and landers, and supporting space systems. Improvements are sought for increasing safety and reliability, and reducing cost and weight of systems and components. Only processes that are environmentally friendly and worker-health oriented will be considered.

Proposals are sought in but are not limited to the following areas:

Polymer Matrix Composites (PMCs)

Large scale manufacturing; innovative automated processes (e.g., fiber placement); advanced non-autoclave curing (e.g., e-beam, ultrasonic); damage tolerant and repairable structures; advanced materials and manufacturing processes for both cryogenic and high-temperature applications; improved thermal protection systems (e.g., integrated structures, integral cryogenic tanks and insulations).

Ceramic Matrix Composite (CMCs)

Materials and processes that are projected to significantly increase safety and reduce costs simultaneously, while decreasing weight for space transportation propulsion. Innovative material and process technology advancements that are required to enable long-life, reliable, and environmentally durable materials.

Metals and Metal Matrix Composites (MMCs)

Advanced manufacturing processes such as pressure infiltration casting (for MMCs); laser engineered near-net shaping; electron-beam physical vapor deposition; *in situ* MMC formation; solid state and friction stir welding, which target aluminum alloys, especially those applicable to high-performance aluminum-lithium alloys and aluminum

metal-matrix composites; advanced materials such as metallic matrix alloys compositions which optimize high ductility and good joinability; functionally graded materials for high or low temperature application; alloys and nanophase materials to achieve more than 120 ksi tensile strength at room temperature, and 60 ksi at elevated temperature above 500° F; new advanced superalloys that resist hydrogen embrittlement and are compatible with high-pressure oxygen; innovative thermal spray or cold spray coating processes that substantially improve material properties, combine dissimilar materials, application of dense deposits of refractory metals and metal carbides, and coating on nonmetallic composite materials.

Manufacturing Nanotechnology

Innovations that use nanotechnology processes to achieve highly reliable or low-cost manufacturing of high-quality materials for engineered structures.